

CLAIMS

1-99. (Canceled).

100. (New) A combination for controlling airflow between an air hose and an inflatable thermal device, comprising:

an end of the air hose having a diameter;

at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for being coupled with the end of the air hose;

a valve with a flap having a diameter substantially the same as the end diameter and disposed in the air hose near the end for opening to enable airflow out of the end when the end is coupled with the inlet port; and

means near the end for opening the flap in response to the inlet port coupling with the end;

the means including a hinge lever to cooperate with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the flow of air when the end is coupled with the inlet port.

101. (New) The combination of claim 100, the means further including a first magnet in the air hose, and a second magnet on the flap, wherein the first magnet cooperates with the second magnet to enable the flap to block the flow of air when the end is not coupled with the inlet port.

102. (New) A combination for controlling airflow between an air hose and an inflatable thermal device, comprising:

an end of the air hose having a diameter;

at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for being coupled with the end of the air hose;

a valve with a flap having a diameter substantially the same as the end diameter and disposed in the air hose near the end for opening to enable airflow out of the end when the end is coupled with the inlet port; and

means near the end for opening the flap in response to the inlet port coupling with the end;

the means including seating cams to cooperate with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the flow of air when the end is coupled with the inlet port.

103. (New) A combination for controlling airflow between an air hose and an inflatable thermal device, comprising:

an end of the air hose having a diameter;

at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for being coupled with the end of the air hose;

a valve with a flap having a diameter substantially the same as the end diameter and disposed in the air hose near the end for opening to enable airflow out of the end when the end is coupled with the inlet port; and

means near the end for opening the flap in response to the inlet port coupling with the end;

the means including a gear rack mounted lever in the air hose to cooperate with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking the flow of air when the end is coupled with the inlet port.

104. (New) The combination of claim 103, the means further including a first magnet in the air hose, and a second magnet on the flap, wherein the first magnet cooperates with the second magnet to enable the flap to block the flow of air when the end is not coupled with the inlet port.

105. (New) A combination for controlling airflow between an air hose and an inflatable thermal device, comprising:

an end of the air hose having a diameter;

at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for being coupled with the end of the air hose;

a valve with a flap having a diameter substantially the same as the end diameter disposed in the air hose near the end for opening to enable airflow out of the end when the end is coupled with the inlet port; and

means near the end for opening the flap in response to the inlet port coupling with the end;

the means including a first magnet in the air hose, and a second magnet on the flap, wherein the first magnet cooperates with the second magnet to enable the flap to block the flow of air when the end is not coupled with the inlet port.

106. (New) A method for controlling air flow in a system including an inflatable thermal device, an air hose having two ends, at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for receiving one end of the air hose, a flap in the air hose near the one end, and a hinge lever in the air hose near the one end, comprising:

coupling the one end with the inlet port;

moving the flap in response to coupling in order to permit an airflow out of the one end;

the hinge lever cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking airflow;

operating the inflatable thermal device in response to the airflow;

decoupling the one end from the inlet port; and,

in response to decoupling, moving the flap to block airflow through the one end.

107. (New) The method of claim 106, in which the system also has a first magnet in the air hose and a second magnet on the flap, the method further including first magnet cooperating with the second magnet to enable the flap to block the flow of air when the end is decoupled from the inlet port.

108. (New) A method for controlling air flow in a system including an inflatable thermal device, an air hose having two ends, at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for receiving one end of the air hose, a flap in the air hose near the one end, and seating cams on the flap, comprising:

coupling the one end with the inlet port;

moving the flap in response to coupling in order to permit an airflow out of the one end;

the seating cams cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking airflow;

operating the inflatable thermal device in response to the airflow;

decoupling the one end from the inlet port; and,

in response to decoupling, moving the flap to block airflow through the one end.

109. (New) A method for controlling air flow in a system including an inflatable thermal device, an air hose having two ends, at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for receiving one end of the two ends of the air hose, and the air hose including a flap near the one end and a gear rack mounted lever, comprising:

coupling the one end with the inlet port;

moving the flap in response to coupling in order to permit an airflow out of the one end;

the gear rack mounted lever cooperating with the inlet port to prevent the flap from blocking airflow;

operating the inflatable thermal device in response to the airflow;

decoupling the one end from the inlet port; and,

in response to decoupling, moving the flap to block airflow through the one end.

110. (New) The method of claim 109, in which the system also has a first magnet in the air hose and a second magnet on the flap, the method further including first magnet cooperating with the second magnet to enable the flap to block the flow of air when the end is decoupled from the inlet port.

111. (New) A method for controlling air flow in a system including an inflatable thermal device, an air hose having two ends, at least one inlet port in the inflatable thermal device for receiving one end of the two ends of the air hose, the air hose including a flap near the one end, a first magnet in the air hose and a second magnet on the flap, comprising:

- coupling the one end with the inlet port;
- moving the flap in response to coupling in order to permit an airflow out of the one end;
- operating the inflatable thermal device in response to the airflow;
- decoupling the one end from the inlet port; and,
- in response to decoupling, moving the flap to block airflow through the one end;
- the first magnet cooperating with the second magnet to retain the flap in a position in the one end at which the flap blocks airflow through the one end.